

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1 – 95. (Canceled)

96. (Currently Amended) A surface cleaning apparatus comprising:

a) a body having a forward compartment with an opening in a lower surface thereof, and a rear compartment;

b) an elongate rotatable brush extending across the forward compartment, the bristles adapted to extend through the opening in the forward compartment as the brush arrangement is rotated; and

c) a belt connecting an electric motor to the rotatable brush, wherein a lower front region of the body is chamfered to increase the extent to which the bristles protrude from the body in the region of the chamfer such that, when the apparatus is inclined relative to a surface to be cleaned, contact between the bristles and the surface to be cleaned is increased; ~~and~~

the apparatus further comprises an intermediate compartment for collecting debris; and a front part of the forward compartment is movable to expose bristles on the elongate rotatable brush at the front part of the forward compartment.

97 – 98. (Canceled)

99. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 96, wherein the intermediate compartment includes means for receiving debris from the forward compartment, said means being removable to be emptied so as to discharge debris.

100. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 96, wherein a wall between the forward and intermediate compartments is inclined rearwardly.

101. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 100, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments has an angle of inclination of from 15 to 20 degrees.

102 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 96, wherein a wall between the intermediate and rear compartments seals the rear compartment from the intermediate compartment.

103 – 107. (Canceled)

108. (Previously Presented) The surface cleaning apparatus of claim 96, further comprising a handle rotatable about an axial direction of the handle to facilitate steering of the apparatus.

109. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 108, wherein the handle is further pivotable about an axis transverse to the axial direction of the handle.

110. (Previously Presented) The surface cleaning apparatus of claim 96, further comprising a motor switch located at the rear of the housing to control operation of the motor.

111 - 125. (Canceled)

126. (Currently Amended) A surface cleaning apparatus comprising:

- a) a body having a forward compartment with an opening in a lower surface thereof, an intermediate compartment for collecting debris, and a rear compartment;
- b) an elongate rotatable brush extending across the forward compartment, the bristles adapted to extend through the opening in the forward compartment as the brush arrangement is rotated;
- c) a belt connecting an electric motor to the rotatable brush; and
- d) a handle attached to the body in a region of the rear compartment,

wherein a lower front region of the body is chamfered to increase the extent to which the bristles protrude from the body in the region of the chamfer such that, when the apparatus is inclined relative to a surface to be cleaned, contact between the bristles and the surface to be cleaned is increased; and

a front part of the forward compartment is movable to expose bristles on the elongate rotatable brush at the front part of the forward compartment.

127. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 126, wherein the handle is rotatable about an axial direction of the handle to facilitate steering of the apparatus.

128. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 127, wherein the handle is further pivotable about an axis transverse to the axial direction of the handle.

129. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 126, wherein the intermediate compartment is defined by a wall between the forward compartment and the intermediate compartment, a wall between the intermediate compartment and the rear compartment, and side walls.

130. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 129, wherein one side wall is removable to facilitate removal of debris.

131. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 130, wherein the removable side wall includes a cover.

132. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 129, wherein the intermediate compartment includes a tray that can be removed and emptied so as to discharge debris.

133. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 129, wherein the belt is enclosed within a tunnel that passes through the intermediate compartment.

134. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 133, wherein one side wall is removable to facilitate removal of debris and the tunnel is arranged at a side remote from the removable side wall.

135. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 129, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments is inclined rearwardly.

136. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 135, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments has an angle of inclination of from 15 to 20 degrees.

137. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 129, wherein the wall between the intermediate and rear compartments seals the rear compartment from the intermediate compartment.

138. (Canceled)

139. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 126, further comprising a motor switch located at the rear of the housing to control operation of the motor.